

**Vermont Health Access
Pharmacy Benefit Management Program**

October, November and December 2010

**Quarterly Report to
Health Access Oversight Committee**

Q2 SFY 2011

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Pharmacy Benefit Management Program

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The Agency of Human Services, Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), is pleased to provide the quarterly report to the Health Access Oversight Committee as required by Act 127 approved in 2002 and found in 33 V.S.A. Chapter 19 § 2001. This report covers the activities of the Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) for the second quarter of State Fiscal Year 2011.

The three requirements are set out in bold italics. The DVHA's response follows each requirement.

§2001 (c) (1) “The director of the office of Vermont health access shall report quarterly to the health access oversight committee concerning the following aspects of the pharmacy best practices and cost control program:

(1) the efforts undertaken to educate health care providers about the preferred drug list and the program's utilization review procedures;”

During this quarter, the following informational mailings were sent to pharmacy providers:

- December 2010: Fax Blast to Pharmacies: January 3, 2011 PDL Changes
 - These changes included:
 - Coverage limitation to omeprazole Rx 20mg and 40mg
 - Suboxone® Sublingual Film designated as the preferred Suboxone® dosage form
 - Products moving to non-preferred status and other miscellaneous changes to the PDL
- December 2010: Notice that Suboxone® Sublingual Film would become the preferred Suboxone® dosage form beginning 1/3/11.
- December 2010: 2011 Claims Processing Updates:
 - Closing of the Part D Coverage Gap
 - Part D Plans for 2011 (billing and contact information)
 - Member Enrollment Assistance
 - Point-of-Sale Facilitated Enrollment (POS FE) Process & Limited Income Newly Eligible Transition Program
 - January 3, 2011 changes to VPharm Pilot Program for Statins and Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI's):
 - Coverage limitation to omeprazole Rx 20mg and 40mg.
 - Prilosec OTC will no longer be covered.

In an attempt to make all documents available to interested parties, the department maintains a web page with information related to the Pharmacy Benefits Management Program at: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers>.

“(2) the number of prior authorization requests made;”

<i>Clinical Prior Authorization Requests</i>					
	<i>Requests</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Changes</i>	<i>Denied</i>	<i>Fair Hearing Status</i>
October	1,913	1,466	48	399	None
November	1,901	1,408	40	453	1 Withdrawn, 1 Pending
December	1,742	1,360	41	341	None
Total	5,556	4,234	129	1193	

<i>Quantity Limit Prior Authorization Requests</i>					
	<i>Requests</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Changes</i>	<i>Denied</i>	<i>Fair Hearing Status</i>
October	214	164	19	31	None
November	473	423	11	39	1 Withdrawn
December	224	189	9	26	None
Total	911	776	39	96	

<i>Combined Clinical and Quantity Limit Prior Authorization Requests</i>					
	<i>Requests</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Changes</i>	<i>Denied</i>	<i>Fair Hearing Status</i>
October	2,127	1,630	67	430	None
November	2,374	1,831	51	492	1 Withdrawn, 1 Pending
December	1,966	1,549	50	367	None
Total	6,467	5,010	168	1,289	

Data in the table above show that the DVHA received a total of 5,556 requests for **clinical prior authorizations (PA)** during the second quarter of State Fiscal Year 2011 (October, November and December 2010). This represents a 6% increase from the total number of clinical prior authorization received during the previous quarter (5,218), and a 10% increase from one year ago, Q2 SFY 2010, when total clinical PA requests were 5,064.

DVHA received a total of 911 requests for **quantity limit prior authorizations** during the second quarter of State Fiscal Year 2011 (October, November and December 2010), an increase of 48% from the total number of quantity limit prior authorization requests received during the previous quarter (614), and a 49% increase from one year ago, Q2 SFY 2010, when total quantity limit PA requests were 611.

Quantity limits are established to promote dose consolidation (that is prescribing of lesser quantities of larger strength dosage forms rather than multiples of lower strength dosage forms which is especially important when all dosage strengths for a particular drug are level priced) and also to promote

rational maximum daily doses where increased doses have either not been shown to offer additional clinical benefit or may be harmful.

“(3) the number of utilization review events (other than prior authorization requests).”

DUR Description	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>	Grand Total	% of Total
DVHA without Part D	<i>2010</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2010</i>		
Drug-Age Precaution	5	1	5	11	0.00%
Drug-Disease Precaution	3,777	4,105	4,945	12,827	5.06%
Drug-Drug Interaction	9,732	14,754	13,669	38,155	15.06%
Ingredient Duplication	8,941	9,116	9,674	27,731	10.94%
Refill Too Soon	3,495	3,463	3,981	10,939	4.32%
Therapeutic Duplication	53,309	54,403	56,012	163,724	64.61%
Total	79,259	85,842	88,286	253,387	100.00%

DUR Description	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>	Grand Total	% of Total
DVHA with Part D	<i>2010</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2010</i>		
Drug-Age Precaution	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Drug-Disease Precaution	159	175	195	529	0.90%
Drug-Drug Interaction	6,130	8,509	7,501	22,140	37.65%
Ingredient Duplication	1,465	1,326	1,387	4,178	7.10%
Refill Too Soon	487	483	512	1,482	2.52%
Therapeutic Duplication	10,117	10,202	10,159	30,478	51.83%
Total	20,368	22,705	21,764	58,807	100.00%
Grand Total	99,627	108,547	110,050	312,194	

During the second quarter of SFY 2011, a total of 312,194 utilization events occurred. This was a 4.08% increase from the previous quarter, in which a total of 299,942 utilization review events occurred. Below is a comparison of the utilization review events for the first and second quarters of SFY 2011.

	Q2 SFY	Q1 SFY	Percent
	'11	'11	Change:
Drug-Age Precaution	11	23	-52.17%
Drug-Disease Precaution	13,356	13,500	-1.07%
Drug-Drug Interaction	60,295	62,034	-2.80%
Ingredient Duplication	31,909	30,876	3.35%
Refill Too Soon	12,421	11,643	6.68%
Therapeutic Duplication	194,202	181,866	6.78%
Total	312,194	299,942	4.08%